



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: February 20th, 2019
Time: 7:15PM
Location: 1st floor conference room
Attendees: Executive committee: Christopher Tonkin (chair), Jack Johnson, Muris Kobaslija, Adam MacNeill, Doug Mayo-Wells, Scott Smith
Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner
David Creedon, Phil Goff, Jennifer Litowski

Review/approval of November, January minutes

November - Add link to Dec 7 Bikeshare report
January - add "immediately after snowstorm" in TAC report
-- Motion to approved as amended
-- Carries, no opposition

TAC report - Scott Smith

AHS planning transportation focused meeting planned, to be scheduled. Bike committee input solicited.
TAC social 2nd Wednesday of March, (tentative)

Bike share updates

Contract extension discussion ongoing with MAPC - License renewal due July 1st
Lime has asked to meet with Town about scooters
Scooters generally operating in bike lanes (more bike-like than pedestrian-like, some legislation pending to formally establish this)
Vehicles disallowed on sidewalks (unless mobility aid).
Lime spring relaunch - two proposed changes:
1, want to focus on demand-based supply (non-controversial)
2, shift entire fleet to ebikes - (controversial)

Financial dimension for Lime, unpowered bikes are not cost effective, but, usage is twice as great for e-bikes vs unpowered bikes (1/5th of bikes made up 1/3 of trips)
In other markets (outside MA) pedal bicycle prices have been raised, so original cheapest ride price will not be available regardless of fleet makeup

Also want bikes available for people who don't want to or can't pedal (e.g., up hills)

Some communities (Winthrop, Chelsea) have banned ebikes entirely. - Chelsea concerned about cost vs. MBTA tickets. Winthrop doesn't see need (for ebikes), also, concerned about child safety on ebikes.

Everett, Newton, Watertown - OK with all e-bikes

MAPC asks Arlington to articulate any concerns, propose acceptable fleet split between ebikes/manual bikes.

MAPC interested in having Lime phase out pedal bikes over time vs. all at once

Lime won't accept 50%/50% split

Malden concerned about complete lack of option for unpowered bike, 90/10 would likely be OK. 10% of fleet is token if you want to rely on availability of low-cost option

Hubway has economic assistance option

Lime assist = low income discount, program exists but not much promotion/adoption.

Possibly enhance income assistance program to compensate for reduction of pedal bike availability?

MPAC, Town, Housing authority could also promote assistance program
mention subsidy program in Lime app?

Town of Arlington would rather have program available than not have the program
Need to make usage-based decisions

Can Arlington live with a fleet of solely pedal assist? probably yes

If not, what are reservations: impact on low-income citizens, need evidence this will not decrease overall ridership, concern about usage on Minuteman given state legislative confusion

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NB: former bikeshare working group was Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, Stacey King (East Arlington Livable Streets Coalition), Seth Federspiel (TAC)

Bike count - Jennifer Litowski

3 yrs ago started winter count - only Lake and dog park - numbers not complete for all 3 years

Should we revisit Minuteman hours (warrant article issue), lighting?

DCR case study of minuteman, 2 other trails, indicate they were interested in paying for installation for a counter, but no news last couple months

Should install a permanent counter as part of Lake St - no appropriation in this FY budget, but Lake St probably won't be until next spring, so 2020 appropriation is feasible

Ebike Legislation

Sean Garbelly (co-sponsor) of Mass Bike bill

would essentially define low power pedal assist (Class I) as bicycle -

agenda for next month - whether ABAC wants to recommend the Town to endorse legislation H.3014

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3014/House/Bill/Text>

Jack Johnson will look for previous relevant correspondence

-- Motion that ABAC draft a letter to selectmen advising them to endorse the proposed ebike legislation

-- Carries, none opposed

Bikeway Cleanup

Recent cleanups have been in East Arlington, so maybe in Arlington Heights/around Mill St this year?

Could align with Ecofest March Sun 3rd 1-5pm/ or Ecoweeek Apr 22nd-29th

April 27 there may be a police bike event planned? But likely no conflict

Tentative bike clean up for Apr 27th

Arlington Bike tour

bike week - usually 3rd Sunday in May

plans to be finalized in upcoming meeting

Crossing at Trader Joe's

proposals are pending to address safety concerns

ABAC prefers not crosswalk, not speedbumps

Bike parking bylaw proposals

zoning amendment -

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/9154/3864?backlist=%2ftown-governance%2fall-boards-and-committees%2fredevelopment-board>

Erin would appreciate comments before March 18 ARB meeting

Intent is to decouple bike space parking requirements from parking requirements

space per dwelling units - Cambridge has detailed bike parking zoning law (e.g., ".02 spaces per sleeping room for a motel") - proposal is to adopt

addressing what bike parking should look like, not a standard so much as specs about security, size of bikes that must be accommodated

Vandalism of bike tools at Magnolia Park

just heard from DPW re: installation, ordering parts next week

Winter social

Wednesday Feb 27th at Kickstand Cafe

Kickstand will provide \$200 worth of food, kitchen will be open

Highschool rebuild

Concerns about cost - proposed to remove Bikeway intersection

ABAC feels this would be a false economy

ABAC action plan for 2019

Committee is engineering/infrastructure oriented

Onroad/bikeway

Bicycle friendly community guidance (Need to renew application next year)

Schedule working session, post invitations

Facebook

Nothing new to report

Town meeting issues

Capital square apartments - bike rack not installed operated by HCA

Warrant article - creating medium long-term overnight parking ban waiver - concern raised as to why bikes are not viable option vs. on-street parking - request response from ABAC:

(discussed that bikes are not viable for ppl w medical challenges, & overnight parking will not negatively affect cyclists) - parking ban encourages public transit, discourages multicar family - maybe ABAC should be neutral? - policy issue that goes beyond biking
sponsor of Warrant article wants to attend ABAC next month to discuss

Somerville bike committee initiative on rideshare

Letter expresses safety concerns related to rideshare vehicles (Lyft, Uber) stopping in bike lanes, etc.

-- Motion to endorse letter with note that message needs to go to municipalities as well as rideshare operators

-- passes, no opposition

MAPC counts

Weekend, weekday Sometime in May, maybe 11th /14th?

To be finalized in upcoming meeting

Adjourned.